

In January, the State Department announced the establishment of another office, the Global Engagement Center (GEC). Outside of the CT Bureau, it is tasked with coordinating messaging that delegitimizes violent extremists. It is not yet clear how the Bureau will engage and coordinate with the GEC or how it will not duplicate efforts.

A big part of countering violent extremism is winning the battle online, especially over social media. ISIS has been able to recruit over 20,000 foreign fighters, from more than 90 different countries, partly because of the organization's use of social media. In 2011, the White House acknowledged terrorists' use of social media to spread hate and promised a strategy to prevent online radicalization. Five years later, we are still waiting. In a time of limited resources and dangerous terrorist threats; we cannot afford to waste any dollars. Our national security depends on it.

It is clear that terror attacks are on the rise. Despite the Administration's so-called progress at winning back territory in Iraq and Syria, terrorists successfully conduct deadly attacks worldwide. ISIS and Al Qaeda affiliates continue to grow deeper roots in local communities thanks in large part to their use of social media. Now more than ever is a time to be vigilant about our counterterrorism efforts. The Department of State's role in this fight is not to be taken lightly. We need to make sure these programs are effective at combatting radicalization and the threat of terrorist attacks. The State Department must prioritize the monitoring and evaluation of their programs and ensure that lessons from such evaluations are implemented in a timely manner. We must develop a better understanding of what is working and what is not. The safety of Americans and our allies depends on it.

And that's just the way it is.

#### SUPPORT EN BLOC AMENDMENTS

#### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the En Bloc Amendment package Number 2 offered by Chairman THORNBERRY. I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member SMITH for including my amendment, marked as Sewell Amendment Number 34, in this package.

My amendment is a very simple one that not only promotes our continued efforts to increase training and readiness in the area of cybersecurity but also helps encourage and promote the critically important pipelines between our senior military colleges, local educational agencies and ROTC programs. The need for improvement in the area of cybersecurity is increasingly apparent. Over the past several years, there has been a sharp increase in the number of cyberattacks that threaten our national security and economic stability. This bill seeks to address this emerging threat by establishing ROTC cyber institutes at our senior military colleges. My amendment simply allows for these cyber institutes to place a special emphasis on entering into partnerships with local educational agencies that service rural, underserved, or underrepresented communities.

Our nation's ROTC programs around the country help provide students with invaluable character education and promote student achievement, leadership, and diversity. These cooperative efforts between our military branches and local educational institutions help produce successful students and citizens. In particular, in rural and underserved communities, like the ones I represent in the 7th Congressional District of Alabama, ROTC programs not only provide the critically important tools to be successful academically and socially, but also represent an opportunity to improve their social mobility and expand their world beyond their communities.

The outcomes of these programs are both apparent and convincing. They help increase the odds of students graduating high school, finding employment, going to college and becoming an even more productive member of society. The new ROTC cyber institutes established in this legislation are a perfect symbiosis between a program with a proven track record and an emerging national security threat that will require recruitment and training of the best and brightest from ALL walks of life.

Again I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for supporting this common sense yet critically important amendment. This is a win for everyone involved.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

Business meeting to mark up an original bill entitled, "Fiscal Year 2017 Department of Defense Appropriations".

SD-192

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the multi-stakeholder plan for transitioning the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority.

SR-253

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine debt versus equity, focusing on corporate integration considerations.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine United States-India relations, focusing on balancing progress and managing expectations.

SD-419

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine understanding the role of sanctions under the Iran Deal.

SD-538

11 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security

Business meeting to mark up an original bill entitled, "Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2017".

SD-138

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 2919, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide greater flexibility to States in carrying out the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program and employing local veterans' employment representatives, S. 2896, to eliminate the sunset date for the Veterans Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand eligibility for such program, and to extend certain operating hours for pharmacies and medical facilities of the Department, S. 2888, to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's review and publication of illness and conditions relating to veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and their family members, S. 2883, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the requirement of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a report on the capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide for the specialized treatment and rehabilitative needs of disabled veterans, S. 2679, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a center of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of health conditions relating to exposure to burn pits, S. 2520, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to newborn children, S. 2487, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to identify mental health care and suicide prevention programs and metrics that are effective in treating women veterans as part of the evaluation of such programs by the Secretary, S. 2049, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a continuing medical education program for non-Department medical professionals who treat veterans and family members of veterans to increase knowledge and recognition of medical conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans, an original bill to reform the rights and processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, an original bill to make certain improvements in the provision of automobiles and adaptive equipment by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and an original bill to expand eligibility for hospital care and medical services under section 101